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Draft decision presented by Australia, Canada and Colombia*

International Year for the World's Indigenous People

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/211 of 22 December 1989, stressing the need for maximum participation of populations, local communities and organizations in the development process, including operational activities of the United Nations system,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 45/191 of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly stressed that the search for solutions to the problems of the most vulnerable population groups in developing countries should constitute an integral part of human resources development strategies,

Further recalling its decision 90/18 of 22 June 1990, requesting the Administrator to expand non-governmental organizations and grass-roots activities,

Noting that International Labour Organisation Convention No. 169 (1989) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries recognizes the right of these people to decide their own priorities for the process of development as it affects them,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

1. Welcomes General Assembly resolution 45/164 of 18 December 1990, which proclaimed 1993 the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, with a view to strengthening international cooperation for solving problems faced by indigenous communities in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health;

2. Recognizes that, in many countries, indigenous people form a large and particularly vulnerable part of the national population, and at the same time possess valuable knowledge of natural resources and ecosystems which, if strengthened and respected, could make significant contributions to national development;

3. Requests the Administrator to formulate a concrete plan for the contribution of the United Nations Development Programme to the fulfilment of the objectives of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, in collaboration with Governments and organizations of indigenous people.